

UNIVERSITI TEKNOLOGI MARA

**AN INVESTIGATION OF LANGUAGE
LEARNING STRATEGIES AMONG FORM 6
STUDENTS**

ILLANI MUHAMED KAMIL

Dissertation submitted in partial fulfilment of the requirements
for the degree of
Master of Education
(TESL)

Faculty of Education

August 2014

DECLARATION

AUTHOR'S DECLARATION

I declare that the work in this dissertation was carried out in accordance with the regulations of Universiti Teknologi MARA. It is original and is the results of my own work, unless otherwise indicated or acknowledged as referenced work. This topic has not been submitted to any other academic institution or non-academic institution for any degree or qualification.

In the event that my dissertation be found to violate the conditions mentioned above, I voluntarily waive the right of conferment of my degree and agree be subjected to the disciplinary rules and regulations of Universiti Teknologi MARA.

Name of Candidate : Illani Bt. Muhamed Kamil

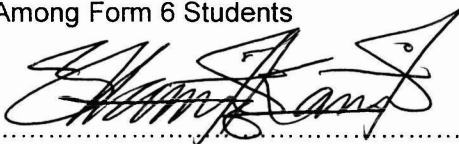
Candidate I.D. No. : 2009523281

Programme : Master of Education (Teaching English as a Second Language)

Faculty : Education

Thesis Tittle : An Investigation of Language Learning Strategies Among Form 6 Students

Signature of Candidate:



.....

ABSTRACT

This research investigates the use of language learning strategies (LLS) among 130 form 6 students from SMK Sungai Kapar Indah, Kapar. By using Oxford's (1990) Strategy Inventory for Language Learners (SILL) as the method, this study also seeks to find out the language learning strategies particularly English, according to the students' gender and proficiency level. The students' proficiency level is measured according to their Malaysian University English Test (MUET) score. The 3 research questions in this study are answered by using Statistical Package for the Social Science (SPSS). To find what are the LLS employed by the students, descriptive analysis was used to get the mean and then they were ranked accordingly. It was found that all LLS fell within the medium usage range. Metacognitive was at the first rank followed by social, compensatory, memory, affective and lastly cognitive strategy. The second objective of carrying out this study is to investigate the differences among learners in strategy use and their gender, results of a one-way analysis of variance (ANOVA) showed that there was a significant difference in the usage of affective and social strategies between male and female students. Male used significantly more affective strategy and social strategy than female students. Lastly, in order to know the differences among learners in their strategy use and their proficiency level, ANOVA again was used to find the significant difference and Fisher's LSD post-hoc test was utilized to find differences across the bands among each LLS. It is found that there was no statistically significant difference between the groups of students and the usage of metacognitive, compensatory and social strategies were the highest among Band 4 students. However, additional result obtained by comparing difference in strategies usage revealed that Band 1 scorers use more cognitive and compensatory strategies than Band 3 scorers. Based on the findings, it can be said that the students in SMK Sungai Kapar Indah are not aware of which learning strategies to employ when they are learning English. This can be seen from the overall medium usage of learning strategies among the participants. It is imperative for the students to be made aware of how to employ these strategies as this might be useful for them to get higher and better bands in MUET as MUET is a pre-requirement for the students to enter universities. The implication of the study is that, students who have different bands in MUET should be made aware employing LLS to improve their English learning.

ABSTRAK

Kajian ini dijalankan untuk menyiasat penggunaan strategi pembelajaran Bahasa (SPB) di kalangan 130 pelajar tingkatan 6 dari SMK Sg. Kapar Indah, Kapar. Dengan menggunakan Oxford (1990) Inventori Strategi untuk Pelajar Bahasa (SILL) sebagai kaedah kajian, kajian ini juga bertujuan untuk mengetahui strategi pembelajaran bahasa (Bahasa Inggeris) di kalangan para pelajar dari segi jantina dan tahap penguasaan Bahasa Inggeris. Tahap penguasaan ini diukur mengikut keputusan band yang mereka perolehi dari Malaysian University English Test (MUET). Kajian ini mempunyai 3 soalan kajian yang menggunakan Pakej Statistik untuk Sains Sosial (SPSS). untuk mengetahui apakah jenis strategi belajar yang digunakan oleh para pelajar, analisa deskriptif digunakan untuk mendapatkan min dan kemudian disusun mengikut susunan tertinggi. Hasil daripada itu, pengkaji mendapati bahawa semua strategi digunakan dalam tahap sederhana. Strategi kognitif adalah strategi yang paling kerap digunakan diikuti oleh strategi sosial, kompensatori, memori, kognitif dan akhir sekali ialah strategi afektif. Objektif kedua kajian ini ialah untuk menyelidik penggunaan strategi – strategi ini berdasarkan jantina pelajar, keputusan analisis sehala varians (ANOVA) menunjukkan bahawa terdapat perbezaan yang signifikan dalam penggunaan strategi di kalangan pelajar lelaki dan perempuan. Pelajar lelaki lebih banyak menggunakan strategi afektif dan sosial daripada pelajar perempuan. Akhir sekali, untuk mengetahui perbezaan di kalangan pelajar dalam penggunaan strategi dan tahap penguasaan Bahasa Inggeris mereka, pengkaji menggunakan ANOVA untuk mencari perbezaan dan ujian post – hoc Fisher telah digunakan untuk mencari perbezaan di antara band yang diperolehi dan penggunaan strategi mereka. Keputusan menunjukkan bahawa tidak ada perbezaan yang signifikan di antara kumpulan pelajar yang mempunyai band yang sama dengan strategi pembelajaran bahasa, hanya pelajar yang mendapat band 4 menggunakan banyak strategi metakognitif, kompensatori dan sosial. Pengkaji mendapati bahawa pelajar yang mendapat band 1 lebih menggunakan strategi kognitif dan kompensatori berbanding dengan pelajar yang mendapat band 3. Berdasarkan hasil kajian ini, ia boleh dikatakan bahawa pelajar – pelajar di SMK Sungai Kapar Indah belum mengetahui strategi – strategi ini untuk meningkatkan pembelajaran bahasa Inggeris mereka. Ini dapat dilihat daripada penggunaan yang sederhana di kalangan para peserta. Kesedaran tentang penggunaan strategi – strategi ini adalah penting di kalangan pelajar kerana ianya mungkin berguna kepada mereka untuk mendapatkan band yang lebih tinggi memandangkan MUET merupakan salah satu pra syarat untuk pelajar tingkatan 6 memasuki universiti. Implikasi dari kajian ini ialah para pelajar perlu diajar cara untuk menggunakan strategi pembelajaran bahasa yang betul untuk meningkatkan pembelajaran Bahasa Inggeris

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

It would be impossible to begin my acknowledgement without thanking Allah, for without Him giving me strength and determination, this academic research would have been non existence.

This research would not have come about without the help of my supervisor, Dr Zainab, who with mountains of efforts and endless advice had guided me along the way in making this a success.

No book would be complete without thanking the spouses, so, En Abdul Karim, with the proper mixture of love and patience, this is the product of it.

Writing this is never a solitary effort, I thank my family, my parents, siblings, in – laws and nephews for making this a reality though sometimes it is a nightmare!

This thesis could not have been written without my classmates. They are my teachers, enemies and friends.

Finally, to Ammar Akeef and Ummar Khaleef, though both of you have no clues of why mummy is always in her room, staring and typing at the computer, of why mummy is sometimes ok and sometimes angry, I want you to know that, you are my pillar of strength (sometimes you did try to rock and bend that pillar) and my layers of patience. And because of that, I dedicate this book to both of you.